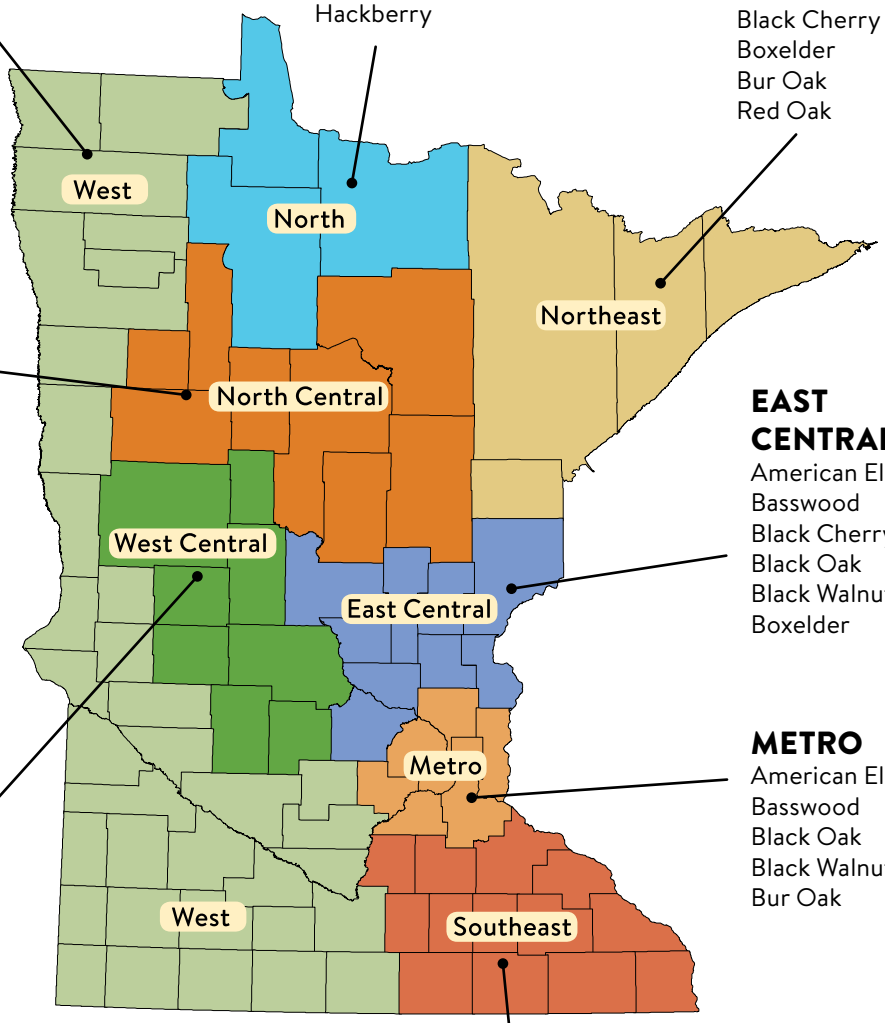
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Best Native Yard Trees For Our Changing Climate

Minnesota's climate is changing. Average temperatures have risen across the state by 2°F since the early 20th century. Since 2000, Minnesota has seen a significant increase in extreme rainstorms where rain amounts exceed 3 inches in 24 hours—increasing flooding. These changes affect where trees will thrive.

Planting a diversity of trees will make your yard more resilient to climate change. Use the map below to identify the right native tree species for your area. Contact a local tree nursery for help selecting a good tree for your yard. Check your local tree ordinance. Some cities ban planting species such as boxelder and cottonwood.



WEST
American Elm
Basswood
Boxelder
Bur Oak
Cottonwood
Hackberry

NORTH
American Elm
Boxelder
Bur Oak
Cottonwood
Hackberry
Quaking Aspen
Red Maple
Silver Maple
Sugar Maple

NORTHEAST
American Elm
Basswood
Black Cherry
Boxelder
Bur Oak
Red Oak
Quaking Aspen
Red Maple
Silver Maple
Sugar Maple
White Oak
White Pine

NORTH CENTRAL
American Elm
Basswood
Black Cherry
Boxelder
Bur Oak
Cottonwood
Hackberry
Red Oak
Quaking Aspen
Red Maple
Silver Maple
Sugar Maple
White Pine

EAST CENTRAL
American Elm
Basswood
Black Cherry
Black Oak
Black Walnut
Boxelder
Bur Oak
Hackberry
Red Maple
Silver Maple
Sugar Maple
White Oak

WEST CENTRAL
American Elm
Black Oak
Black Walnut
Boxelder
Bur Oak
Cottonwood
Hackberry
Jack Pine
Shagbark Hickory
Silver Maple

METRO
American Elm
Basswood
Black Oak
Black Walnut
Bur Oak
Cottonwood
Hackberry
Shagbark Hickory
Silver Maple
White Oak

SOUTHEAST
American Elm
Basswood
Black Oak
Black Walnut
Boxelder
Bur Oak
Hackberry
Shagbark Hickory
Silver Maple
Swamp White Oak
White Oak

Why Plant Trees?

The increased release of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that traps heat, is one factor that is causing our climate to change. You can fight climate change by planting trees because trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air and store carbon in their wood.

Planting trees also helps reduce flooding. First, trees slow the movement of rain to the ground by intercepting and holding rain on leaves, branches, and bark. Second, soils under trees absorb and store more water than areas without trees. By increasing the number of trees around your home, you can help decrease flooding during a heavy rain event.

You can help keep carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere by planting trees to reduce your use of energy. Planting deciduous trees to the east and west of your home creates shade in the right places to help cool your home and reduce air conditioning use. Coniferous tree plantings to the west and north of your home block cold winter winds and reduce your heating needs.

Be sure to plant your trees correctly so they grow strong and live long. Trees planted too deeply tend to have weak root systems and are more likely to fall over during a strong storm or when the soil is saturated with water. Proper planting techniques can be found at **mndnr.gov/treecare**

And, care for your trees after planting to keep them healthy. Water newly planted trees for the first three years if less than an inch of rain falls in a week. Apply a 3-inch layer of mulch over your tree's root system to insulate the roots during the winter and retain moisture in the soil during the summer (be sure to keep the mulch off the tree's trunk). Proper watering and mulching techniques can be found at **mndnr.gov/treecare**